(c) Government have considered the impact of this step on the employment situation; and

(d) what alternative steps are proposed to be taken in order to provide employment opportunities for the persons affected by reduction/termination of the Central Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission has undertaken a review of the existing schemes (Both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) and sujected them to Zero-based Budgeting (ZBB) retaining only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that are demonstrably essential. The exercise will help in rationalizing the schemes by making them more focused and streamline the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group. The consequential impact on manpower is to be examined by the concerned administrative Ministry on a case to case basis. However, any Staff, hitherto employed in the schemes being recommended for weeding out, could be re-deployed by the Ministries/Departments.

Recommendations of S.P. Gupta Committee *vis-a-vis* Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee

2030. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Committee headed by S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commision on the extent of unemployment and employment opportunities available in different sectors of the economy has reportedly come to certain conclusions diametrically opposite to those of another recent Committee headed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, based on the latest available Census Data; and

(b) if so, the major areas of difference in the conclusions drawn by both the Committees and the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The new committee report (Dr. S.P.Gupta) is not yet finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

Swaminathan Committee Report on farm subsidies

2031. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swaminathan Committee on Agriculture has recommended redeployment of farm subsidies given on electricty and irrigation to technology transfer and development of farm resources;

(b) whether the report states that declining Gross Capital Formation (GCF) was adversely affecting growth rate and high yield technology; and

(c) if so, what are the details of such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Streering Group on Agriculture and Allied Sectors constituted for the formulation of the X Five Year Plan under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has observed that some of the subsidies like free electricity for ground water use and canal irrigation water have affected adversely on natural resources. Such subsidies have also affected on the resources of the States. Whereas subsidies to the farmers may be desirable to help them adopt improved production technologies and promote entrepreneureship, the ones which are affecting adversely on natural resources need to be redeployed and diverted for other activities having direct beneficial effect on technology transfer, developing on-farm resources, diversification, generating employment and income to rural poor and sustainability of natural resources. Levying of user charges to at least recover the cost of operation and maintenance could help increase the use of